REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 19-26 are pending in the application. This Amendment currently amends claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 10, 14, and 21. Claims 17 and 18 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added to currently amended claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 10, 14, and 21. Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 10, 14, and 21 are currently amended to merely clarify the subject matter of the claims and in no way narrow the scope of the claims in order to overcome the prior art or for any other statutory purpose of patentability.

Notwithstanding any claim amendments of the present Amendment or those amendments that may be made later during prosecution, Applicants' intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements. Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 25, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,088,752 to Ahern. Claims 10-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Ahern in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,181,318 to Lim. Claims 14, 15, 19, and 22-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Ahern in view of Lim and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,590,377 to Smith. Claims 16, 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Ahern.

These rejections are respectfully traversed for the reasons discussed below.

I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

The claimed invention, as defined in claim 1, is directed to a docking station for a mobile computer that comprises a dock housing coupled to a desktop display and including a primary bus, and an extended bridge that further comprises a first side including an end connected to the primary bus of the dock housing, a second side including an end connected to a secondary bus for connecting to the mobile computer, and a device that implements a serial conversion of one of a peripheral component interconnect (PCI)-to PCI and a Micro Channel communication between

the primary bus and the secondary bus, and a docking sleeve attached to the dock housing, in which the mobile computer is slidably fitted into the docking sleeve to effect a communication between the primary bus and the secondary bus.

The claimed invention, as defined in claim 8, is directed to a communication system that comprises a mobile computer including an input/output (I/O) bus and a graphics adapter, a desktop display panel coupled to the mobile computer, a pointing device for providing inputs for display on the desktop display panel, a docking sleeve that connects with the mobile computer and connects the I/O bus to drive the graphics adapter and the desktop display panel, and that connects with the pointing device, and an extended bridge comprising a first side including an end connected to a docking sleeve bus and a second side including an end connected to the I/O bus of the mobile computer, and a device that implements a serial conversion of one of a peripheral component interconnect (PCI)-to PCI and a Micro Channel communication between the docking sleeve bus and the I/O bus, in which the mobile computer is slidably fitted into the docking sleeve to effect a communication between the docking sleeve bus and the I/O bus, and computing power is provided by the mobile computer with access to data from the mobile computer.

The claimed invention, as defined in claim 10, is directed to a computer system that comprises a mobile computer, a docking station including a docking sleeve into which the mobile computer slidably fits, an extended bridge further comprising a first side including an end connected to a primary bus of the docking station, a second side including an end connected to a secondary bus for connecting to the mobile computer, and a device that implements a serial conversion of one of a peripheral component interconnect (PCI)-to PCI and a Micro Channel communication between the primary bus and the secondary bus, and a flat panel display disposed in the docking station, which is coupled to the mobile computer via the docking sleeve, in which wherein the mobile computer includes one of a serial connector and a parallel connector to connect to another end of the first side and another end of the second side of the extended bridge.

An exemplary aspect of the present invention is the provision of a combined mobile computer and docking station that provides a desktop "all-in-one" design, which minimizes the

desktop footprint (Specification, page 4, lines 14-15).

II. THE PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

A. The Ahern Reference

Ahern discloses a docking system for providing a portable computer access over a first bus in the portable computer to a second bus in the system (Abstract, lines 1-3). The first bus and the second bus are each adapted to separately connect to respective ones of a plurality of bus-compatible devices (Abstract, lines 3-5).

In particular, Fig. 5 of Ahern disclose a docking station 130 connected by cables to a monitor 138, a mouse 134, a keyboard 132, and a printer 136, and to a primary bus 10 of a laptop 126 via a PCMCIA package 116 and links 40, 46, i.e., cables, to a connector 108 on the docking station 130 (col. 9, lines 5-21).

Claim 1 recites at least the features of "a docking station including a docking sleeve into which said mobile computer slidably fits ... wherein the mobile computer is slidably fitted into the docking sleeve to effect a communication between the primary bus and the secondary bus."

Similarly, claim 8 recites at least the features of "a docking sleeve that connects with the mobile computer ... wherein the mobile computer is slidably fitted into the docking sleeve to effect a communication between the docking sleeve bus and the I/O bus."

Similarly, claim 10 recites at least the features of "a docking station including a docking sleeve into which said mobile computer slidably fits ... wherein the mobile computer is slidably fitted into the docking sleeve to effect a communication between the docking sleeve bus and the I/O bus."

Nowhere does Ahern disclose, teach or suggest a docking station into which a mobile computer may be slidably fitted. As Fig. 5 of Ahern clearly shows, the docking station is separated from and connected to the mobile computer and the peripherals via cables. Hence, Ahern cannot achieve an all-in-one design, that is, an integral design having a minimization of a desktop footprint, which is an exemplary aspect of the present invention.

For at least the reasons outlined above, Applicants respectfully submit that Ahern does

not disclose, teach or suggest every feature of claims 1, 8, and 10. Accordingly, Ahern does not anticipate, or render obvious, the subject matter of claims 1 and 8, and claims 2-6, 9, 25 and 26, which depend from claims 1 and 8, and claims 16, 20 and 21, which depend from claim 10. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-6, 8, 9, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Ahern and of claims 16, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Ahern is respectfully solicited.

B. The Lim Reference

The Examiner cites Lim for teaching an LCD panel (Office Action, page 5, line 9).

Claim 10 recites at least the features of "a docking station including a docking sleeve into which said mobile computer slidably fits; an extended bridge comprising: a first side including an end connected to a primary bus of the docking station; [and] a second side including an end connected to a secondary bus for connecting to the mobile computer."

Lim does not cure the deficiencies of Ahern, because nowhere does Lim teach or suggest at least the features of a mobile computer being slidably fitted into a docking sleeve of a docking station to effect a communication between a primary bus of the docking station and a secondary bus of the mobile computer as recited in claim 10. Hence, Lim cannot achieve an all-in-one design, that is, an integral design having a minimization of a desktop footprint, which is an exemplary aspect of the present invention.

For at least the reasons outlined above, Applicants respectfully submit that Ahern and Lim, either individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest every feature of claim 10. Accordingly, Ahern and Lim, either individually or in combination, fail to render obvious the subject matter of claim 10 and claims 11-13, which depend from claim 10, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 10-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Ahern in view of Lim is respectfully solicited.

C. The Smith Reference

The Examiner cites Smith for teaching a docking station including a docking sleeve for

sliding a notebook computer into the docking sleeve (Office Action, page, 6, lines 5-6).

Fig 2. of Smith discloses that a notebook computer 110 engages with a docking station 120 via a docking interface 255 (col. 5, lines 56-58). The docking interface 255 preferably comprises an electrical connector which electrically connects the notebook computer 110 to the docking station 120 (col. 5, lines 58-61). A PCI-to-PCI bridge 260 within the docking station 120 connects to the docking interface 255 to provide an interface between the primary PCI bus 240 within the notebook computer 110 and a secondary PCI bus 262 within the docking station (col. 5, lines 61-65).

Claim 1 recites at least the features of "an extended bridge comprising: a first side including an end connected to a docking sleeve bus and a second side including an end connected to the I/O bus of the mobile computer; and a device that implements a serial conversion of one of a peripheral component interconnect (PCI)-to PCI and a Micro Channel communication between the docking sleeve bus and the I/O bus ... wherein the mobile computer is slidably fitted into the docking sleeve to effect a communication between the primary bus and the secondary bus."

Similarly, claim 10 recites at least the features of "a docking station including a docking sleeve into which said mobile computer slidably fits; an extended bridge comprising: a first side including an end connected to a primary bus of the docking station; a second side including an end connected to a secondary bus for connecting to the mobile computer; and a device that implements a serial conversion of one of a peripheral component interconnect (PCI)-to PCI communication between the primary bus and the secondary bus."

The claimed invention comprises an extended bridge including a first side in the docking station and a second side in the mobile computer. The extended bridge of the claimed invention is more than the electrical connector described by Smith. The extended bridge of the claimed invention may operate at the data layer to, for example, convert signals from a parallel interface, for example, the PCI interface, to serial signals, and then may convert these serial signals to a parallel signal conforming to, for example, a PCI bus. When the mobile computer of the claimed invention is slidably fitted into the docking station, a communication between a bus of the docking station and a bus of the mobile computer may be effected.

In contrast, the docking interface 255 of Smith is merely an electrical connector.

Nowhere does Smith teach or suggest at least the features of an extended bridge that implements a serial conversion of one of a peripheral component interconnect (PCI)-to PCI and a Micro Channel communication between a bus of a docking sleeve of a docking station and a bus of the mobile computer as recited in claims 1 and 10.

Ahern and Lim do not cure the deficiencies of Smith. Nowhere do Ahern and Lim, either individually or in combination, teach or suggest at least the features of "wherein the mobile computer is slidably fitted into the docking sleeve to effect a communication between the primary bus and the secondary bus," as recited in claim 1, and "a docking station including a docking sleeve into which said mobile computer slidably fits; an extended bridge comprising: a first side including an end connected to a primary bus of the docking station; a second side including an end connected to a secondary bus for connecting to the mobile computer; and a device that implements a serial conversion of one of a peripheral component interconnect (PCI)-to PCI communication between the primary bus and the secondary bus" as recited in claim 10.

For at least the reasons outlined above, Applicants respectfully submit that Ahern, Lim, and Smith, either individually or in combination, fail to teach every feature of claims 1 and 10. Accordingly, Ahern, Lim, and Smith, either individually or in combination, fail to render obvious the subject matter of claims 1 and 10, and claims 14, 15, 19, and 22-24, which depend from claims 1 and 10, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 14, 15, 19, and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Ahern in view of Lim and Smith is respectfully solicited.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-16, and 19-26, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the

Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Assignee's Deposit Account No. 50-0510.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 5/4/04

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